(b) if so, whether his Ministry is keen to evolve a mechanism by which vacancies of Judges are filled as and when they arise; and

(c) if so, the other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, the Chief justices of the High Courts have been requested to make recommendations for filling up existing vacancies as also the vacancies arising till the end of the March, 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which would make recommendations for appointment of Judges/Chief Justices of High Courts and the Supreme Court, as also draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges.

Priority in disposal of Human Rights cases

1899. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked State Governments to expedite the setting up of fast track courts in accordance with directions of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also asked State Government to expedite the disposal of Human Rights cases on priority; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases pending in various courts and by when such cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Others, the Supreme Court has given direction that the High Courts and the State Governments shall ensure that there exists no vacancy in the Fast Track Courts and necessary steps in that regard shall be taken within three months from the date of Judgement. The Central Government has also requested the State Governments and

the High Courts *vide* D.O letter No. 11013/112002-Jus(M)/Pt./230 dated 7th August, 2002 from Minister for Law and Justice addressed to Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts to take necessary action to fill up all the vacancies in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court. Further, the State Governments are periodically requested to set up the full number of fast track courts as envisaged in the Scheme.

(c) Disposal of cases including Human Rights cases falls within the substantive function of the Judiciary. Therefore, the Government can not intervene in the matter. However, the fast track courts have been established to dispose of long pending cases including cases of undertrials languishing in jails, on priority. Some of the State Governments have notified "Human Rights Courts" as provided in section 30 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, for disposal of cases expeditiously.

(d) No such information is maintained in the Department.

Review of amendments to the Legal Services Authorities Act

1900. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that amendments in the Legal Services Authorities Act would adversely affect the interest of litigants;

(b) whether Government agree that the amendments are intended to introduce alternative judicial system and denial of Justice without even appeal provisions;

(c) if not, the opinion of Government thereto;

(d) the reasons for not prescribing the minimum qualification for non-judicial members of adalat;

(e) how far the Lok Adalats comply with Indian Evidence Act; and

(f) whether Government propose to discuss the matter with Bar Council of India and review the amendment?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The amendment in the Act permit establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats as an additional forum to the litigant persons for resolution of their disputes with certain public utility